

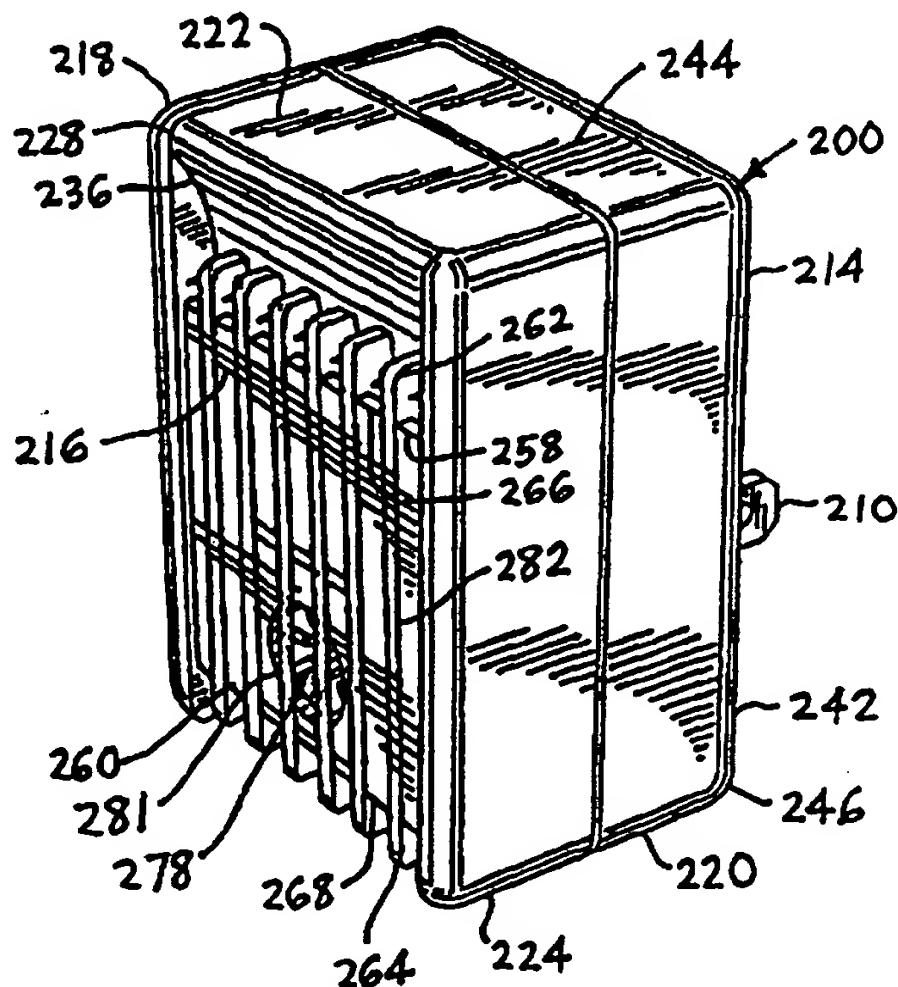


## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/IB95/00311 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 15 March 1995 (15.03.95)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 08/323,751      17 October 1994 (17.10.94)      US  <b>(71) Applicant:</b> JING MEI INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS, LTD. [NZ/US]; Unit K, 600 Industrial Drive, Cary, IL 60013 (US).  <b>(72) Inventors:</b> FORD, Joseph, E.; 535 Abbeywood Drive, Cary, IL 60013 (US). HILGER, Ronald, O.; 311 Clinton, Elmhurst, IL 60126 (US). CHAN, Raymond; 6262 Balsam Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6M 4C4 (CA).  <b>(74) Agent:</b> TOLPIN, Thomas, W.; 444 Dell Lane, Highland Park, IL 60035 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AU, CA, CN, JP, KR, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>

**(54) Title:** IONIZER**(57) Abstract**

Sootless ionizers are provided which greatly reduce the accumulation of ugly black soot on and about the ionizers and adjacent walls or ceiling in the room in which the air is being purified. To this end, the dependable improved ionizers are specially arranged to provide air channels which direct the flow of air past the needles or other ion emitters so that the ions are dispersed through the room for enhanced air purification and the ionized particles are prevented (blown away) from being collected in the ionizers. In one embodiment, the improved ionizers include a plug-in ionizer (100) with an upwardly converging air channel (126), a curved deflector (134) and upper and lower sets of air channelling ribs (162, 164) to direct the flow of air past the ion emitters and away from the ionizers. In a second embodiment, the improved ionizer comprises a plug-in ionizer (200) which is similar to the first plug-in ionizer (100) except that it has a single elongated set of air channelling ribs (282) and a motor driven fan (274) to increase air flow. In a third embodiment, the improved ionizers comprise an industrial ionizer (300) with air channelling ribs (386) to direct the flow of air past the ion emitters (304) and away from the ionizers. The industrial ionizer is equipped with an ionizer circuit that substantially decreases or eliminates ammonia type gases in agricultural and industrial environments which provides a safer and healthier environment to work and live in.



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## IONIZER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention pertains to air purifiers and, more particularly, to ionizers.

Over the years, many types of air purifiers and dedusters have been provided to purify and dedust air. Ionizers are particularly helpful. An ionizer is a device which emits electrically charged ions that clean impurities from the air and provides a feeling of well being to the user. Where possible, the ionizer should accomplish its purpose without creating an amount of ozone which is harmful, to people, pets, and plants. One particularly useful type of prior art ionizer is described in Reissue U.S. Patent Re. 34,346, reissued August 17, 1993, in which one of the coinventors, Ronald O. Hilger is a coinventor of the subject patent application.

Conventional prior art ionizers typically have sharp needles or pointed wires which emit electrons (ions) produced by high voltage pulses to ionize the air. The sharp needles and pointed wires can puncture and severely cut the hand of a consumer or installer.

Conventional prior art ionizers also typically have internal or external collector pads which collect and accumulates ionized particles. As a result, conventional prior art ionizers and their surroundings, including walls, drapes and furniture, often get covered with ugly blotches of soot, debris and dirt formed by the collected black ionized particles, dust and agglomerated fine carbon particulates.

It is, therefore, desirable to provide improved ionizers which overcome most, if not all, of the above problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

35 Convenient user-friendly ionizers are provided to purify air and greatly reduce blotches of ugly black soot, debris and dirt formed by ionized particles, dust and

agglomerated fine carbon particulates, from collecting on and about the ionizers, adjacent walls, ceiling, drapes and furniture. The environmentally correct, consumer responsive, beneficial ionizers provide much cleaner air and a healthier environment for people, pets and plants. The safe dependable ionizers protect customers and installers repairman by providing a needle guard which prevents the sharp needles and points of the ion emitters from cutting, puncturing or otherwise hurting people's fingers and hands. Advantageously, the attractive, skillfully crafted ionizers are economical, easy to use, simple to install, durable, efficient, and effective.

To this end, the cost effective, well built ionizers have an ion emission assembly, including ion emitting needles, wires, pins or other ion emitters, powered by an ionizing circuit, to emit electrons (ions) in order to ionize the air in a room and the pollutants and contaminants carried by the air such as dust (dust laden particles) and particulates of dirt. A housing assembly safely encloses and supports the ion emitters and ionizing circuit to prevent the high voltage ionizing circuit from being accidentally touched, tampered with or moisture from entering therein.

Advantageously, the novel ionizers has air channeling deflectors and flow enhancers which provide a cleaning assembly to substantially prevent the accumulation of soot, dirt, debris and ionized dust laden particles about the housing and ionizer, as well as on adjacent walls, ceiling, drapes, furniture, etc., by channeling, circulating and ventilating air past the ion emitters and directing the flow of ions away from the ionizer and the surface upon which the ionizer is mounted. In the preferred form, the ionizers have air channels which direct the flow (circulation) of air past the needles or other ion emitters so that the ions are dispersed throughout the room for enhanced air purification and the ionized particles are prevented (blown away) by the flowing air from being

collected in and about the ionizers.

5 In one embodiment, the ionizers include a plug-in ionizer (PI-1) with an upwardly diverging air channel, a curved deflector, and upper and lower sets of air channeling ribs to direct the flow of air past the ion emitters and away from the ionizers. The plug-in ionizer has a pair of contact blades which plug into an electrical wall outlet. Ambient air flows through the ionizer unit by natural circulation. Air enters the plug-in ionizer  
10 through ribbed openings at the bottom of the ionizer and flows around the ionizing (ion-emitting) needles where the air is mixed with the ions. The air mixed with the ions is deflected by a curved deflector of the upper housing through a ribbed outlet opening into the room and away from the ionizer to help keep the walls clean. The air channeling ribs are positioned in proximity to the upwardly diverging air channel and are multi-functional. The ribs direct the flow of air around the ionizing needles. The ribs provide a guard and safety protector for the ionizing  
15 needles. The ribs also support the cover. The cross sectional area of the entrance (inlet) of the upwardly converging air channel has a greater cross sectional area than the exit (outlet) of the air channel to increase the speed and flow rate of the air past the ion emitters (needles).  
20  
25

In a second embodiment, the improved ionizer comprises a plug-in ionizer (PI-2) which is similar to the first plug-in ionizer (PI-1) except that it has a single elongated set of air channeling ribs and a motor driven fan  
30 (blower) to increase air flow past the ionizing needles where the air is mixed with the ions and blown into the room where the plug-in ionizer is located.

In a third embodiment, the improved ionizers comprise an industrial ionizer with air channeling ribs to direct  
35 the flow of air past the ion emitters (needles) and away from the ionizers. The industrial ionizers provides a stationary fixture which is designed to be hard wired to an

electrical outlet box in a ceiling or wall. The industrial ionizer is also useful to decrease the ammonia level in chicken houses and other animal houses to promote healthier chickens and other animals.

5       A more detailed explanation of the invention is provided in the following description and claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10       Figure 1 is a perspective view of a plug-in ionizer (PI-1) in accordance with principles of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a front view of the plug-in ionizer (PI-1);

15       Figure 3 is a cross-sectional side view of the plug-in ionizer (PI-1);

Figure 4 is a perspective view of another plug-in ionizer (PI-2) in accordance with principles of the present invention;

20       Figure 5 is a front view of the plug-in ionizer (PI-2);

Figure 6 is a cross-sectional side view of the plug-in ionizer (PI-2);

25       Figure 7 is a perspective view of an industrial ionizer in accordance with principles of the present invention;

Figure 8 is a front view of the industrial ionizer;

Figure 9 is a cross-sectional side view of the industrial ionizer;

30       Figure 10 is an electric drive circuit for the industrial ionizer;

Figure 11 is a front view of the industrial ionizer with adjacent conduits; and

35       Figure 12 is a cross-sectional side view of the industrial ionizer with a potting compound; the industrial ionizer being fastened to an electrical junction box which is secured to the conduits.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figures 1-3 illustrates a user-friendly device, light weight apparatus and small personal appliance which comprises a compact, convenient portable, plug-in ionizer (PI-1) 100 which can be held in the palm of a hand and plugs into an electrical power wall outlet of an upright wall in a room. The plug-in ionizer is connected to and cantilevered from the wall outlet. The ionizer purifies, cleanses and dedusts airborne particulates from the air so as to substantially decrease the amount of concentration of dusty particulates (dust laden particles) and pollutants in the air of the room the ionizer is plugged in so as to make the air in the room fresher, cleaner, healthier, more breathable and comfortable for persons, plants, pets and animals in the room. Desirably, the ionizer greatly reduces the accumulation of dirt, soot, debris and ionized particles on the wall, ceiling, floor, carpet and furniture in the room. The plug-in ionizer 100 has an internal ion emission assembly 102 (Figure 3) which generates and emits negatively charged ions to ionize the air and dusty airborne particulates, contaminants and pollutants in the air. The ion emitting assembly 102 has a set, series and array of ion emitters comprising of ion-emitting metal ionizing needles 104. The needles 104 can be gold or nickel plated and/or made of stainless steel. The needles 104 are self-secured or can be supported by and cantilevered from a circuit board 106. The needles 104 can be electrically connected to an electric drive circuit 108 mounted on the circuit board 106. The electric drive circuit can be of the type shown in Reissue Patent Re. 34,346 entitled Ionizer, by inventor Robert W. Foster, Jr. and Ronald O. Hilger (the coinventor of the present application), reissued August 17, 1993, which is herein incorporated by reference. The electric drive circuit cyclically applies a negative potential charge and drive pulses to the needles 104 at a sufficiently high voltage to ionize the particulates of dust and other pollutants in

the air without substantially generating ozone. Other electric drive circuits can be used, if desired, to accomplish the same results. A pair of electrical power plug contact blades 110 are connected to the electrical circuit via screws or other means 112 and extend through opening in the circuit board 106 to connect and plug into an electrical wall outlet, such as at the base of an upright vertical wall. If desired, a three prong electrical power plug can be used.

The plug-in ionizer 100 has small and light weight housing and cover assemblies 114 and 116 that can be made of rigid impact-resistant insulating plastic. The housing assembly 114 partially encloses and supports the ion emission assembly. More specifically, the housing assembly 114 fully encloses the ion emission assembly except for the contact blades 110 and the tips of the needles 104. In the illustrative embodiment shown in Figure 3, the housing assembly 114 has an upper top housing 118 and a lower bottom housing 120. The upper top housing 118 has a generally planar or flat top 122 and bottom 124 which extends between and is integrally connected to an upwardly inclined, elongated slanted front 126. The top 122 extends rearwardly from an upper rounded corner (shoulder) 128 of the front 126. The bottom 124 has a cutaway portion 130, which extends forwardly of the front, and provides a downwardly facing entrance passageway (inlet) and air intake 132 for ingress of ambient air.

To enhance air flow past the needles and away from the ionizer 100, the upwardly inclined front 126 (Figure 3) of the upper top housing 118 extends upwardly and forwardly from the bottom 124 of the upper top housing 118 at an obtuse angle of inclination ranging from 95-150 degrees, preferably from 95-105 degrees. Desirably, the front 126 of the upper top housing 118 provides an air deflector with an elongated slanted portion 134 that extends upwardly and outwardly (forwardly) and a concave arcuate curved upper portion 136. The upper section of the slanted portion 134,



adjacent the curved portion 136, has a horizontally aligned set of emission apertures 138 which provide needle-receiving holes through which extend the tips of the needles 104. The curved portion 136 provides an arcuate  
5 concave deflector which directs the ions and air away from the ionizer 100, needles 104 and wall to which the ionizer 100 is plugged in, to substantially prevent the accumulation of debris, dirt and soot comprising ionized particulates on the wall and ionizer 100.

10 The bottom lower housing 120 (Figure 3) encloses and may be solvent welded to the upper housing 118. The pins in the lower housing 120 position the PC board 106 away from and provide clearance for solder connections of components on the board 106. The entire high voltage  
15 circuit is potted with electrical grade potting compound. In use, the bottom lower housing 120 is positioned adjacent to and faces the wall outlet of the upright wall. The lower bottom housing 120 has an elongated upright vertical back 142 with openings through which the contact blades 110  
20 extend. Horizontal top and bottom portions 144 and 146 extend forwardly from the back 142 and are in coplanar alignment with and connected to the top 122 and bottom 124, respectively, of the upper top housing 118.

The cover assembly 116 and the upper top housing 118  
25 cooperate with each other to provide an upwardly converging tapered air channel 148 (Figure 3) with a forwardly facing, upwardly inclined, upper exit passageway (outlet) 150 for channeling and directing flow of air past the needles 104 and away from the ionizer 100. The cross sectional area  
30 of the lower entrance (inlet) 152 of the air channel 148 is substantially larger than the upper exit (outlet) 150 of the air channel 148 to increase the speed and flow rate of the air past the needles 104. The rapid air flow from the air channel 148 directs and disperses the ions away from  
35 the ionizer 100 and helps reduce accumulation of dirt, dust, debris, and soot comprising ionized particles from accumulating on and near the ionizer 100, as well as on the

walls and other objects in the room.

The cover assembly 116 (Figures 1-3) has an upright vertical cover 154 that is shorter than the front 126 (Figure 3) of the upper top housing 118. The cover 154 has a generally planar or flat front main exterior surface 156 with upper and lower edges 158 and 160. The cover 154 also has a vertically aligned series and sets of parallel, vertical upright support air-channeling ribs 162 and 164 which provide air deflecting vanes. The ribs include upper and lower sets of vertical ribs. The upper set of ribs 162 are spaced vertically above the lower set of ribs 164. The upper set of ribs 162 extend vertically upwardly from and cooperate with the upper edges 158 of the front main surface 156 to provide upper U-shaped air channels 166 at the exit passageway (outlet). The lower set of ribs 164 extend vertically downwardly from and cooperate with the lower edges 160 of the front main surface to provide lower inverted U-shaped air channels 168 at the entrance passageway (inlet). The upper and lower sets of ribs 162 and 164 extend vertically along and outwardly (forwardly) from the front main surface 156 of the cover. The upper ribs 162 extend longitudinally (vertically) upwardly from the upper edges 158 of the main cover surface 156 and provides the sides of the upper air channels 166. The lower ribs 164 extend longitudinally (vertically) downwardly from the lower edges 160 of the main cover surface 156 and provides the sides of the lower air channels 168. The lower ribs 164 extend vertically upwardly from a position slightly above the bottom level of the upper top housing. The upper ribs 162 extend vertically upwardly to an elevation slightly above the needles 104. The upper ribs 162 provide needle guards to substantially prevent the needles for puncturing human fingers and hands. The upper edges 158 of the main cover surface provide the lower portions of the upper U-shaped air channels 166 and are positioned slightly below the needles 104. The lower edges 160 of the main cover surface

provide the upper portion of the lower inverted U-shaped air channels 168. The upper and lower U-shaped air channels help direct the flow of air and ions past the needles into the room and away from the ionizer. The cover assembly 118 (Figure 3) has horizontal top and bottom engaging fingers portions 170 and 172 which extend rearwardly from the vertical cover surface and have rearwardly extending pins that securely engage pin-receiving portion of the upper top housing.

10 The hand held plug-in ionizer (PI-2) 200 of Figures 4-6 is structurally and functionally similar to the plug-in ionizer (PI-1) 100 of Figures 1-3, except as indicated below. For ease of understanding and clarity, the parts and components of the plug-in ionizer (PI-2) 200 have been  
15 given similar part numbers as the corresponding parts and components of the plug-in ionizer (PI-1) 100, except in the 200 series, such as contact blades 210, lower bottom housing 220, etc. The plug-in ionizer (PI-2) 200 has an air blower assembly 274 for drawing (sucking) air into the  
20 air channel. The blower assembly 274 has a direct current (DC) motor 276 which is self-secured or connected to the circuit board 206. The motor is connected to the electric drive circuit via a transformer. The motor is also positioned in the interior of the housing assembly 214. A  
25 blower wheel 278 comprising an upright power driven fan is connected to the motor shaft 280 and is driven by the motor 276. The fan 278 is disposed in the air channel 248 and is located just rearwardly of and in communication with an upright vertical, circular entranceway (hole) 281 in the  
30 lower upright portion of the cover. The entranceway 281 provides an air intake opening and inlet, through which ambient air is drawn and propelled into the air channel by the fan. A carbon impregnated filter 283 held by a hinged filter grill 285 is positioned between the fan 278 and the  
35 entranceway 281 to filter dust and debris from the influent (incoming) air. The filter grill 285 is hinged to the bottom front corner of the plug-in ionizer 200 and can

pivot from a filtering position within the interior of the plug-in ionizer to an external position outside of the plug-in ionizer for cleaning and replacement of the filter 293.

5            Plug-in ionizer (PI-2) has a single elongated vertical set of upright air channeling ribs 282 which provide air deflecting vanes. The upper portions 262 of the ribs extend vertically upwardly from and cooperate with the upper edges 258 of the front main surface to provide upper U-shaped air  
10 channels 266 at the exit passageway (outlet). The lower portions 264 of the ribs extend vertically downwardly from and cooperate with the lower edges 260 of the front main surface to provide lower inverted U-shaped air channels 268 in proximity to the entrance passageway (inlet). The ribs  
15 282 extend vertically along and outwardly (forwardly) from the front main surface of the cover 254. The upper portions 262 of the ribs extend longitudinally (vertically) upwardly from the upper edges 258 of the main cover surface and provides the sides of the upper air channels 266. The  
20 lower portions 264 of the ribs extend longitudinally (vertically) downwardly from the lower edges 260 of the main cover surface and provides the sides of the lower air channels 268. The lower portions 264 of the ribs extend vertically upwardly from a position slightly above the  
25 bottom level of the upper top housing. The upper portions 262 of the ribs extend vertically upwardly to an elevation slightly above the needles 204. The ribs 282 provide needle guards to substantially prevent the needles from puncturing human fingers and hands. The upper edges 258 of  
30 the main cover surface provide the lower portions of the upper U-shaped air channels 266 and are positioned slightly below the needles 204. The lower edges 260 of the main cover surface provide the upper portion of the lower inverted U-shaped air channels 268. The upper and lower U-  
35 shaped air channels help direct the flow of air and ions past the needles 204 into the room and away from the ionizer. The cover assembly has horizontal top and bottom

engaging fingers portions 270 and 272 which extend rearwardly from the vertical cover surface and have rearwardly extending pins that securely engage pin-receiving portion of the upper top housing.

5        Figures 7-9 illustrates a user-friendly device, fixture, appliance and apparatus which comprises a stationary commercial industrial ionizer 300 that is securely mounted and hard wired to a ceiling, overhead beam, upright wall, or other support surface in a room.  
10        The industrial ionizer 300 is particularly helpful in poultry (chicken) houses to purify and dedust the air and decrease ammonia in the poultry house in order to improve the health, comfort, well-being and longevity of chickens, turkeys, ducks and other poultry. In some circumstances,  
15        it may be desirable to use more than one industrial ionizer.

      The sootless industrial ionizer 300 has an ion emission assembly 302 (Figure 9) which emits negatively charged ions to ionize air, ammonia, and airborne particulates of dust and other pollutants in an area or  
20        room. The ion emitting assembly 302 comprises a set, series, and array of ion emitters 304 comprising of ion emitting metal ionizing needles. The needles can be gold or nickel plated and/or made of stainless steel. The needles  
25        304 are secured to, supported by and cantilevered from a circuit board 306. The needles 304 can be electrically connected to an electric drive circuit 308 mounted on the circuit board. The electric drive circuit cyclically  
30        applies a negative potential charge to the needles 304 at a sufficiently high voltage to ionize the air, ammonia, dust and other airborne pollutants without substantially generating ozone. The electric drive circuit as described  
35        below provides an ionization device and apparatus that reduces or eliminates ammonia gases in agricultural and industrial applications, which provides a healthier and safer working environment. As shown in Figures 9 and 12, overhead exterior electrical wires 382-384 extend from the electrical circuit and the circuit board is connected to

conventional wiring 401-406 (Figure 12) in an electrical junction box 385 of a ceiling or wall. Overhead wires can be positioned within the interior of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic conduits 407 and 408 (Figures 11 and 12).

5           The box-like housing assembly 314 of the industrial ionizer provides a protective housing 315 which houses, conceals and at least partially encloses and supports the ion emission assembly. The housing can be made of an impact-resistant insulating plastic, such as acrylonitrile  
10 butadiene styrene (ABS) or other materials. The housing assembly has a horizontally extending cover 354 which provides a rectangular mounting plate with rounded corners 355. The mounting plate 354 has a generally planar or flat exterior surface 356 with a set of aligned ion emission  
15 apertures 338 (Figure 8) providing needle-receiving holes about the tips of the needles. The housing has upright vertical sides 317 (Figure 7) which provide a rectangular skirt. The sides 317 are positioned inwardly from the peripheral edges 357 of the mounting plate 354. The sides  
20 317 extends upwardly from the mounting plate 354 and peripherally surrounds the ion emission assembly. Screws 361 (Figure 11) or other fasteners can be inserted in screw holes 359 to securely mount the housing assembly to a plastic outlet junction box 385 which can then be mounted  
25 on a ceiling. Preferably, the ionizer can be filled to its sides 317 with an electrical grade potting compound 410.

A horizontal, longitudinal series, set and array of substantially parallel support ribs 386 and arcuate semi-circular end ribs 388 extend outwardly and downwardly from  
30 the exterior surface of the mounting plate 354. When the industrial ionizer is mounted on a ceiling, the ribs are aligned substantially horizontally and are positioned adjacent the needles 304. The space between the ribs provide horizontal air channels 390 to channel and direct  
35 the flow of air past the needles and away from the ionizer and ceiling so as to substantially prevent the accumulation of debris, dirt, and soot comprising ionized particulates

on the ceiling or wall. The ribs 386 and 388 provide needle guards to substantially prevent the needles from puncturing human fingers and hands.

Desirably, the industrial ionizer 300 can have  
5 moisture resistant barrier 392 (Figure 9), comprising a seal, gasket, or closed cell silicon rubber sponge positioned between the needles 304 and the mounting plate 354 in order to minimize water and moisture from contacting the electric circuit, such as when the industrial ionizer  
10 is hosed down in a chicken house,

The industrial ionizer 300 has a visible red indicator light 394 connected to the electrical circuit. The electric drive circuit 308 for the industrial ionizer has a resistor R1 420 which is connected in series to a  
15 diode D1 422 and a capacitor C1 424. Resistor R1 420 is connected in parallel to resistor R3 426. A transformer T1 428 is connected in series to diode D1 422 and capacitor C2 430. The capacitor C2 430 is connected in series to diode D2 432, diode 434, capacitor C3 436 and resistor R2 438.

20 Among the many advantages of the plug-ionizers (PI-1) and (PI-2) and the industrial ionizers are:

1. Outstanding performance.
2. Superior quality.
3. Excellent air purification.
- 25 4. Beneficial to the environment.
5. Simple to install.
6. Easy to use.
7. Can be readily mass produced.
8. Cleaner living space.
- 30 9. A healthier environment for people and animals.
10. Superb removal of pollutants and contaminants.
11. Decrease of dust and dirt.
12. Good ammonia reduction.
13. Attractive.
- 35 14. Economical.
15. Reliable.
16. Efficient.

## 17. Effective.

Although embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, it is to be understood that various modifications and substitutions, as well as rearrangements  
5 of parts, components, and process steps, can be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the novel spirit and scope of this invention.



CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.    An ionizer, comprising:  
              ion emission means for emitting ions to ionize  
              dust laden particles in a room;  
              housing means for at least partially enclosing  
              and supporting said ion emission means;  
10           cleaning means for substantially reducing the  
              accumulation of ionized dust laden particles about said  
              housing means.
2.    An ionizer in accordance with claim 1 wherein  
15           said ion emission means comprising at least one ion emitter  
              selected from the group consisting of a needle, pin, and  
              wire.
3.    An ionizer in accordance with claim 1 including  
20           attachment means for mounting said housing means on a  
              surface selected from the group consisting of an upright  
              wall and ceiling.
4.    An ionizer in accordance with claim 3 wherein  
25           said cleaning means includes air directing means for  
              directing the flow of ions away from the ionizer and the  
              surface upon which the ionizer is mounted.
5.    An ionizer in accordance with claim 1 wherein  
30           said cleaning means includes air ventilation means for  
              circulating air past said ion emission means.
6.    An ionizer in accordance with claim 5 wherein  
35           said air ventilation means comprises air channeling means  
              defining an exhaust area about said ion emission means for  
              egress of air and an entrance area spaced away from said  
              ion emission means for ingress of air, said exhaust area

having a smaller cross sectional than said entrance area to increase the flow rate of air flowing from the entrance area to the exhaust area past said ion emission means.

- 5           7.    An ionizer in accordance with claim 6 wherein said air channeling means includes rib means positioned in proximity to said exhaust area and said entrance area and adjacent said ion emission means.
- 10           8.    An ionizer in accordance with claim 5 wherein said air ventilation means includes air blower means comprising a motor positioned in said housing means and a fan operatively connected to said motor.
- 15           9.    An ionizer in accordance with claim 1 comprising a plug-in ionizer with contact blades for removably plugging into an electrical wall outlet.
- 20           10.   An ionizer in accordance with claim 1 comprising a stationary industrial ionizer having electrical wires connected to wiring in an outlet box.
- 25           11.   A plug-in ionizer, comprising:  
              ion emission means for emitting negatively  
30 charged ions to ionize dusty airborne particulates in a room, said ion emitting means comprising an array of ion emitting needles, a circuit board spaced rearwardly of said ion emitting needles, an electrical circuit mounted on said circuit board for cyclically applying a negative potential  
35 charge to said needles at a sufficiently high voltage to ionize the particulates without substantially generating ozone, and electrical contact blades connected to said electrical circuit and extending from said circuit board for plug in connection to an electrical wall outlet on an upright wall;  
              a housing assembly for at least partially enclosing and supporting said ion emission means, said

housing assembly having an upper housing defining ion emission apertures about said needles and a lower housing for mounting adjacent the upright wall and secured to and supporting said circuit board;

5           a cover assembly having an upright cover with a generally planar exterior surface, a series of substantially parallel upright ribs extending outwardly and longitudinally from the exterior surface of said cover, and upper and lower portions extending laterally inwardly from  
10   said cover and ribs and secured to said upper housing; and  
          said cover assembly and said housing assembly cooperating with each other to define an upwardly converging tapered air channel for directing flow of air upwardly past said needles, said ribs being positioned  
15   substantially vertically and adjacent said needles for enhancing upward flow of air and providing a needle guard to substantially prevent the needles from puncturing a human fingers, said upper housing having a front surface comprising an air deflector, said air deflector having an  
20   elongated slanted portion extending upwardly and outwardly and a concave arcuate upper portion for directing the ions and air away from the ionizer and wall to substantially reduce the accumulation of soot comprising ionized particulates on the wall.

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12. A plug-in ionizer in accordance with claim 11 wherein said ribs include upper set of ribs extending upwardly from said cover and a lower set of ribs extending downwardly from said cover and lower sets of ribs, and said  
30   upper and lower sets of ribs being vertically spaced from each other.

13. A plug-in ionizer in accordance with claim 11 including:

35

          an air blower assembly for drawing air into the air channel, said air blower assembly comprising a DC motor spaced from said circuit board and positioned in said

housing assembly and a blower wheel comprising a fan operatively connected to said motor and positioned in the air channel;

5       said cover assembly defines an intake opening about said fan;

      a filter positioned between said fan and said intake opening; and

      said ribs comprise substantially vertical elongated ribs.

10

14. An industrial ionizer, comprising:

15       ion emission means for emitting negatively charged ions to ionize airborne particulates of dust in an area, said ion emitting means comprising an array of ion emitting needles, a circuit board secured to and supporting said ion emitting needles, an electrical circuit mounted on said circuit board for cyclically applying a negative potential charge to said needles at a sufficiently high voltage to ionize the particulates without substantially generating ozone, and electrical wires connected to said electrical circuit and extending from said circuit board for connection within an electrical box mounted to a ceiling or wall;

20

25       a housing assembly for at least partially enclosing and supporting said ion emission means, said housing assembly having a horizontally extending cover providing a mounting plate with a generally planar exterior surface defining ion emission apertures about said needles and a skirt extending upwardly from said plate and peripherally surrounding said ion emission means, and mounting means for securing said housing assembly to the electrical box; and

30

35       an array of substantially parallel ribs extending downwardly from the exterior surface of said plate, said ribs being positioned substantially horizontally and adjacent said needles to define air channels for channeling and directing the flow of air past said needles away from

the ionizer and ceiling to substantially prevent the accumulation of ionized particulates on the ceiling.

5        15. An industrial ionizer in accordance with claim  
14 wherein said ribs comprise a needle guard to  
substantially prevent the needles from puncturing a human  
finger.

10       16. An industrial ionizer in accordance with claim  
14 including a visible indicator light connected to the  
electrical circuit.

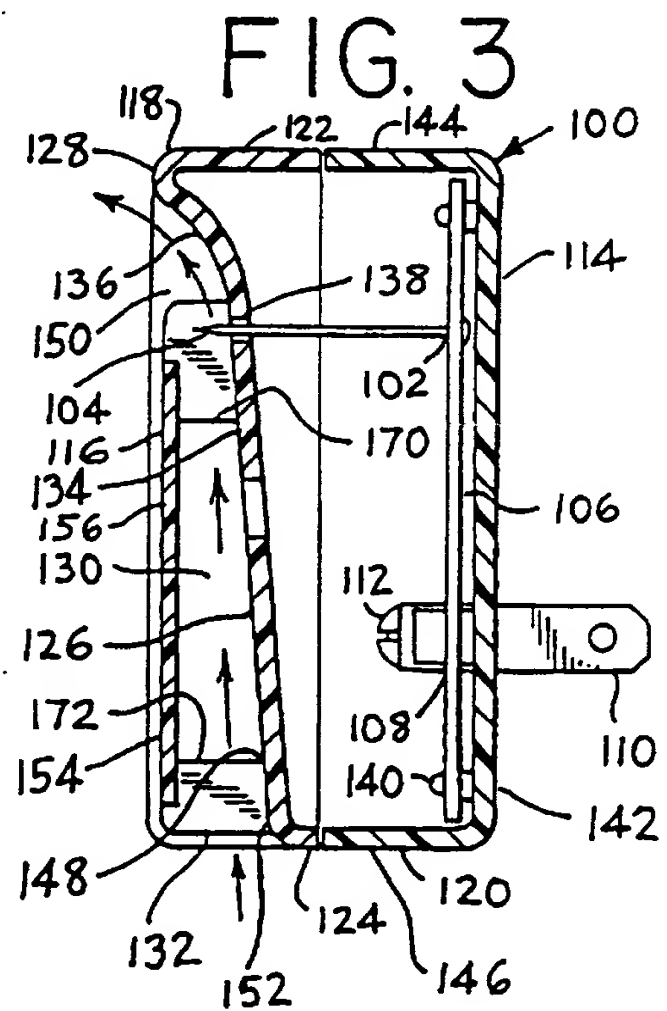
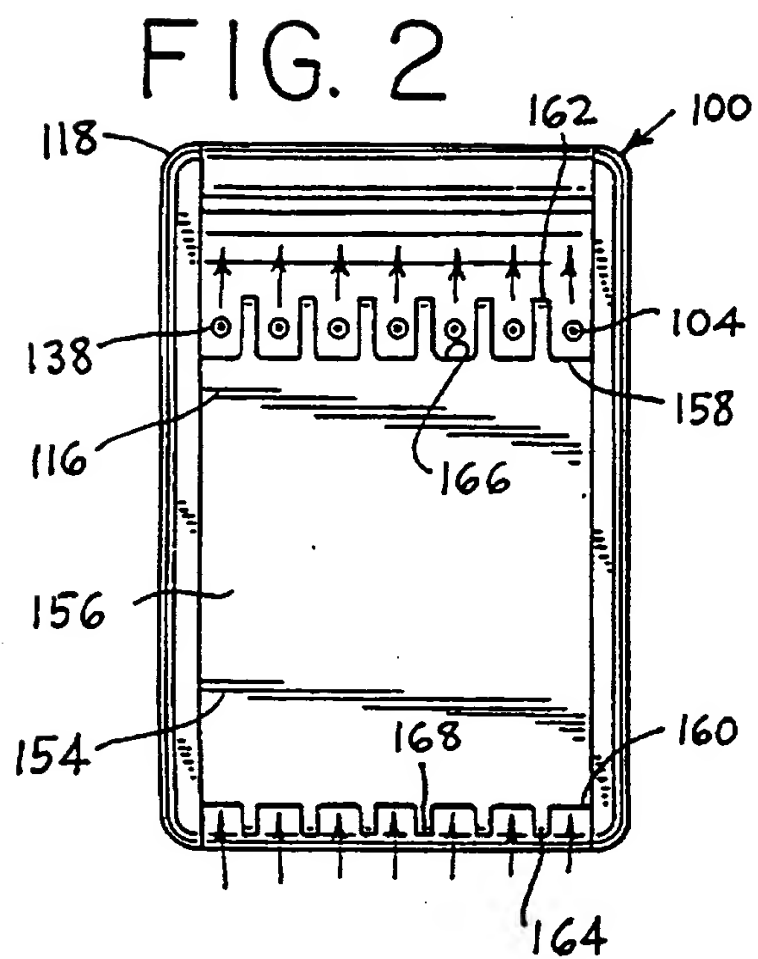
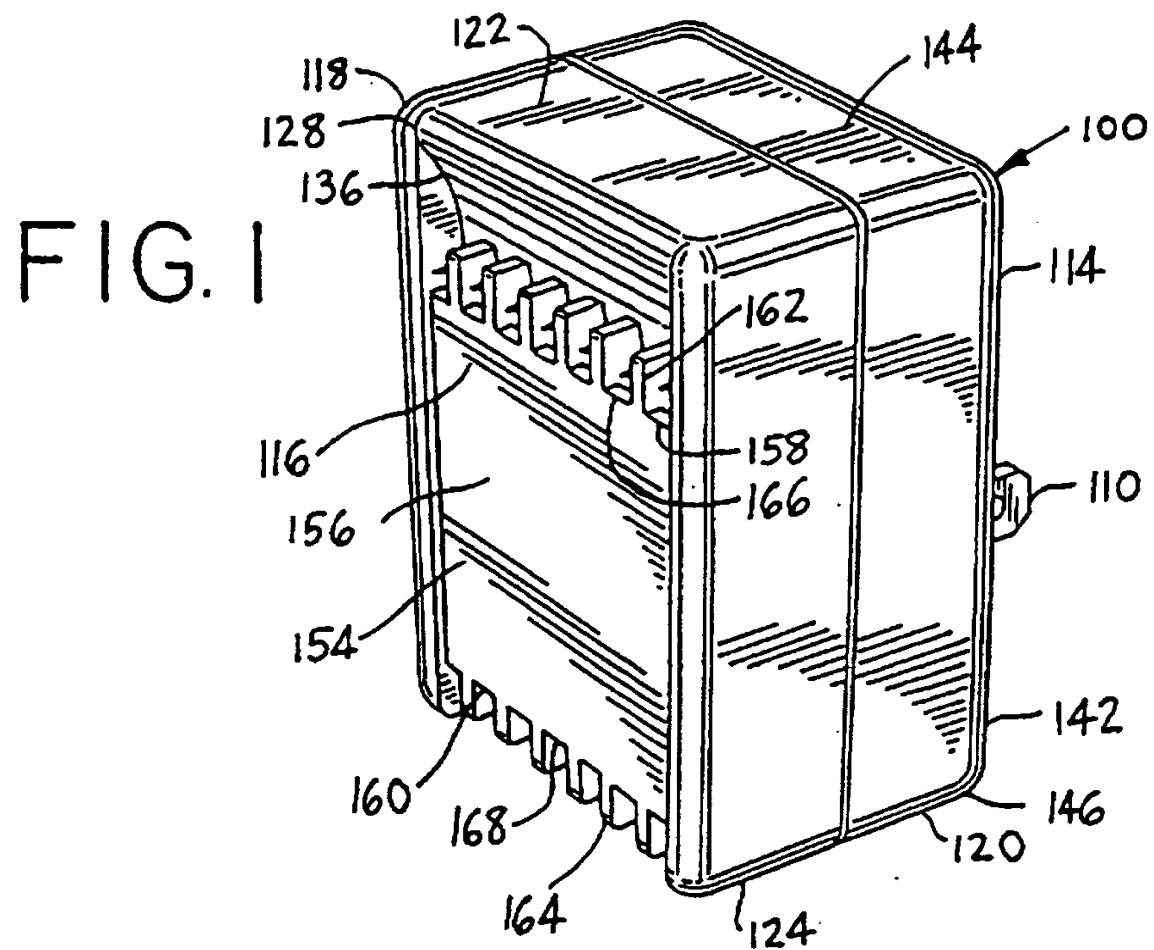
15       17. An industrial ionizer in accordance with claim  
14 wherein said industrial ionizer is positioned in a  
poultry house or animal house and said ion emission means  
includes ionization means for substantially reducing or  
eliminating airborne ammonia gases in agricultural or  
industrial environments to help keep poultry or other  
animals healthier.

20

18. An industrial ionizer in accordance with claim  
14 including:

25       a moisture barrier positioned between said  
needles, said moisture barrier being selected from the  
group consisting of a seal, gasket, and closed cell silicon  
rubber sponge barrier; and

      said skirt comprises a substantially rectangular  
skirt.



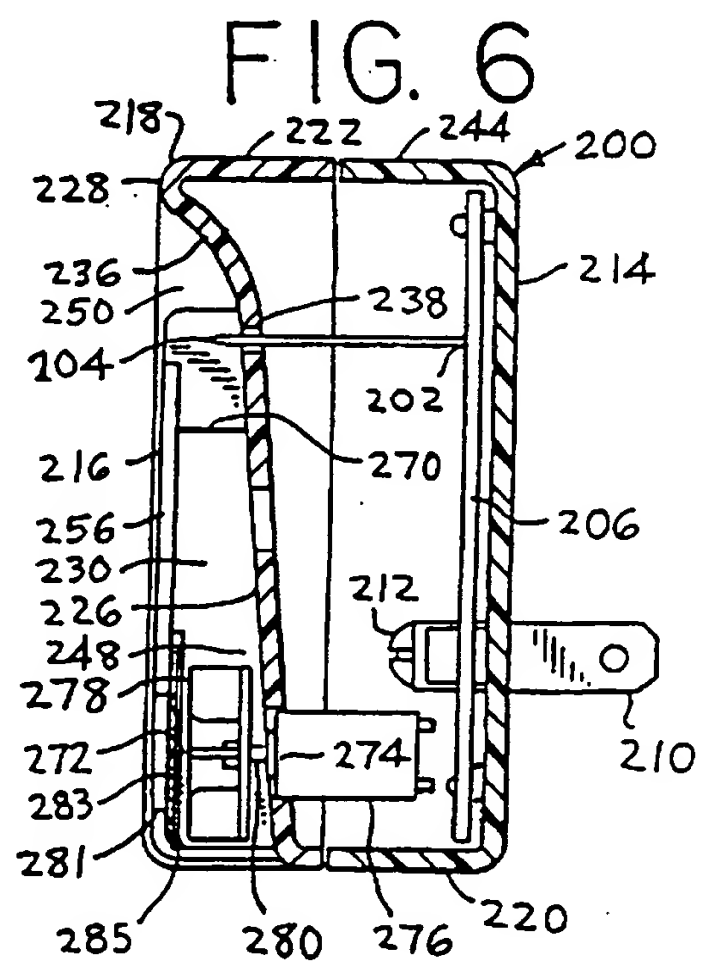
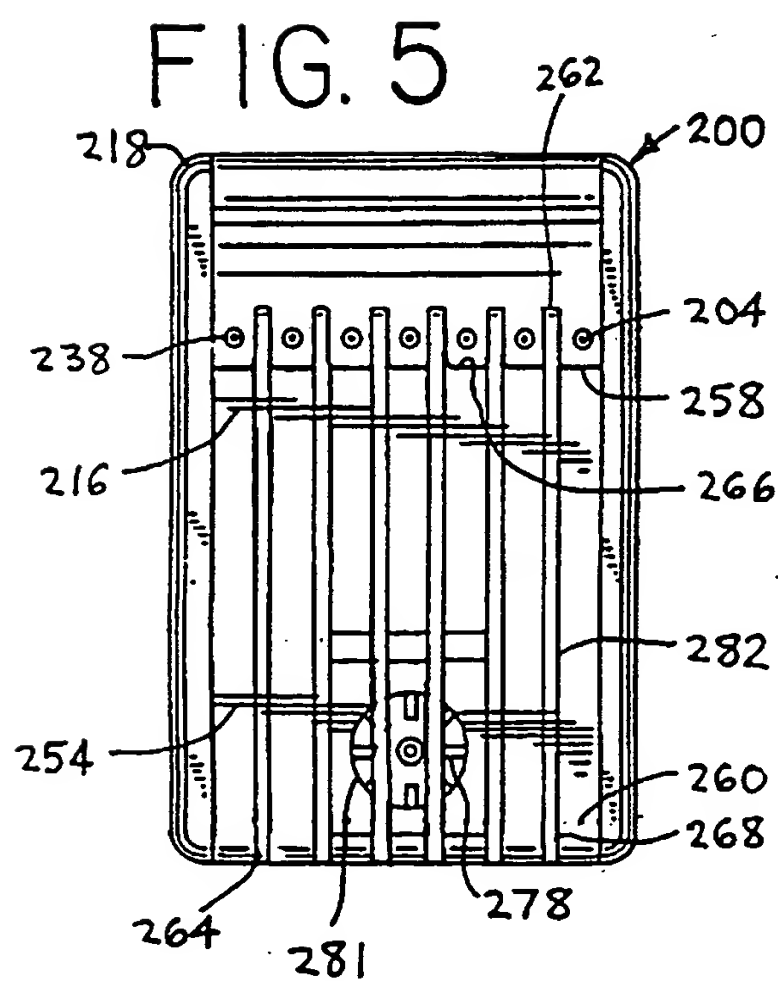
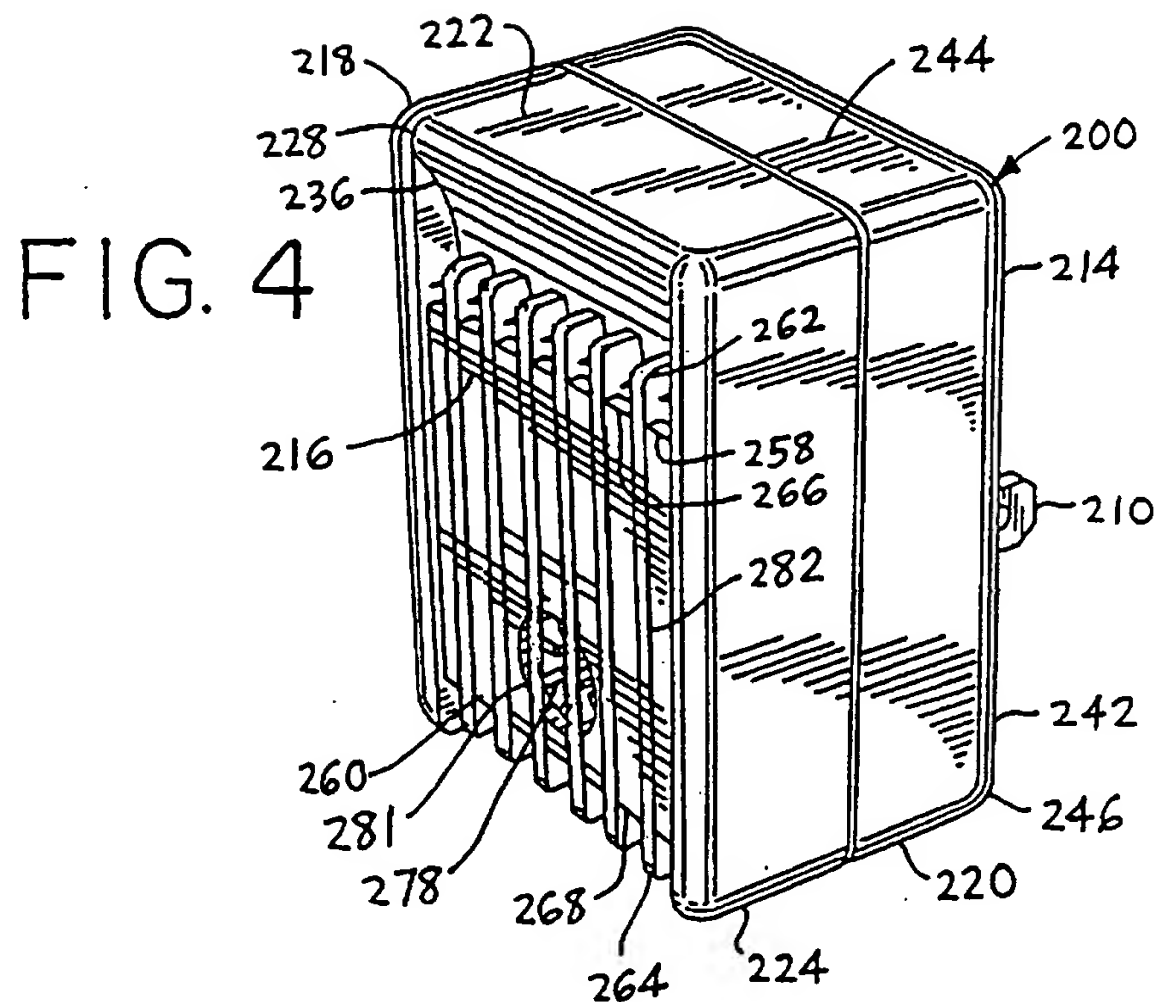


FIG. 7

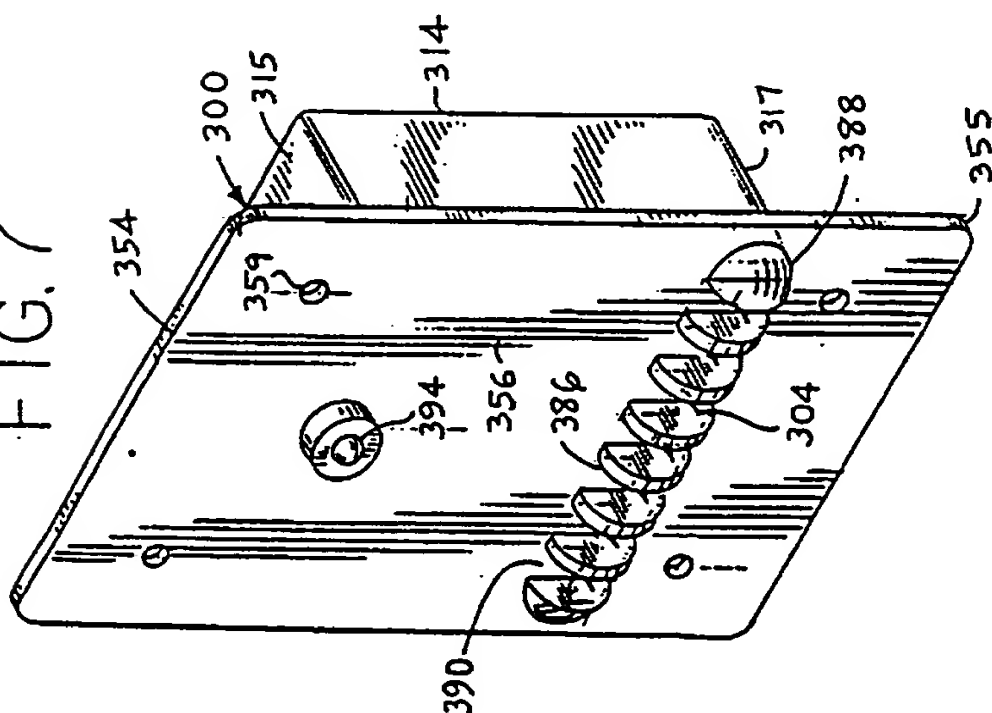


FIG. 8

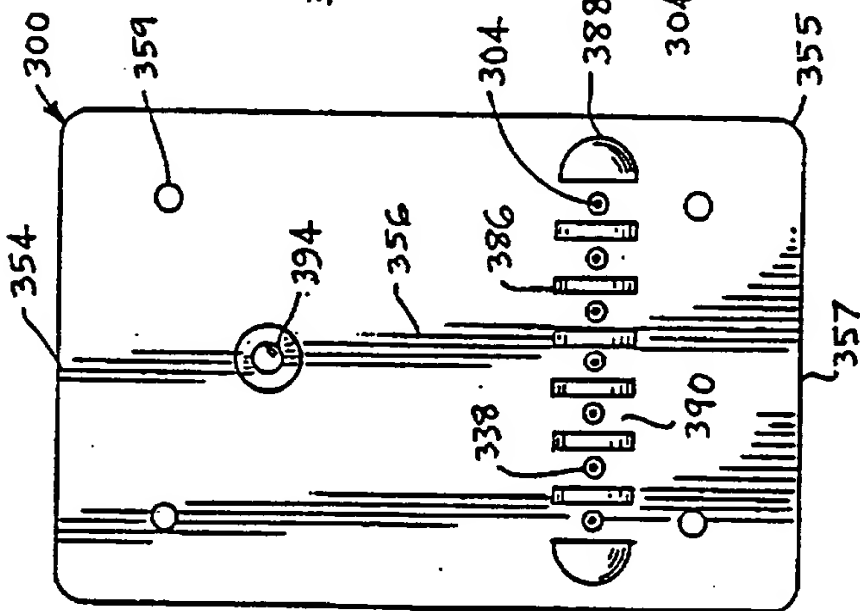


FIG. 9

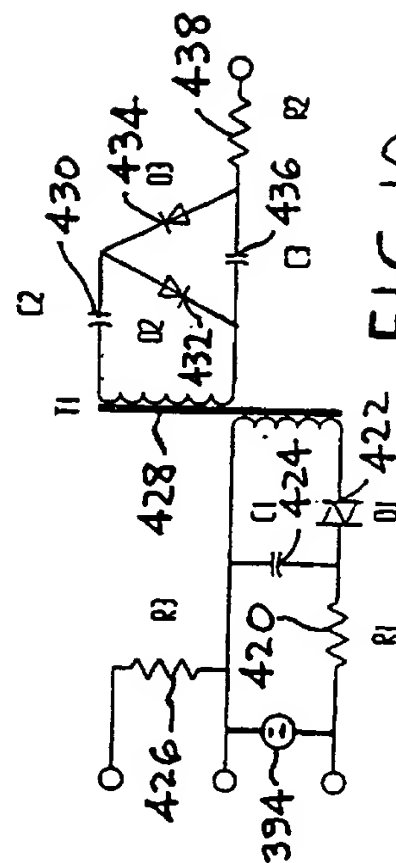
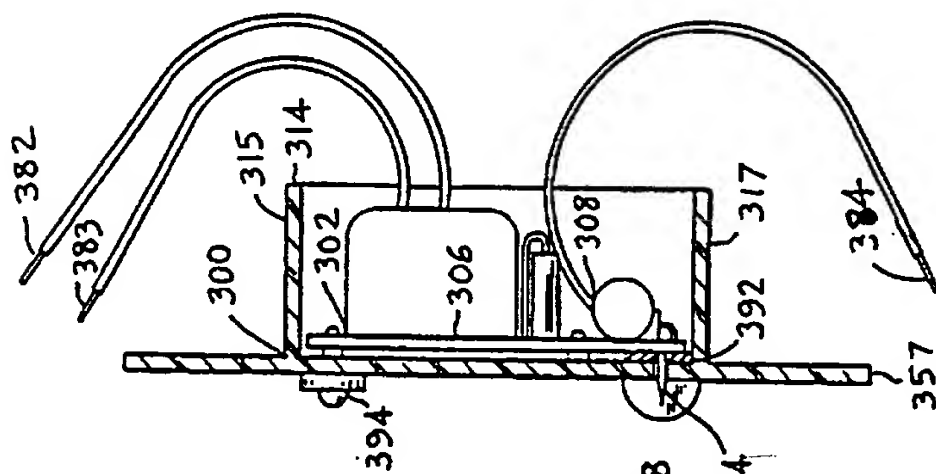


FIG. 10



FIG. 11

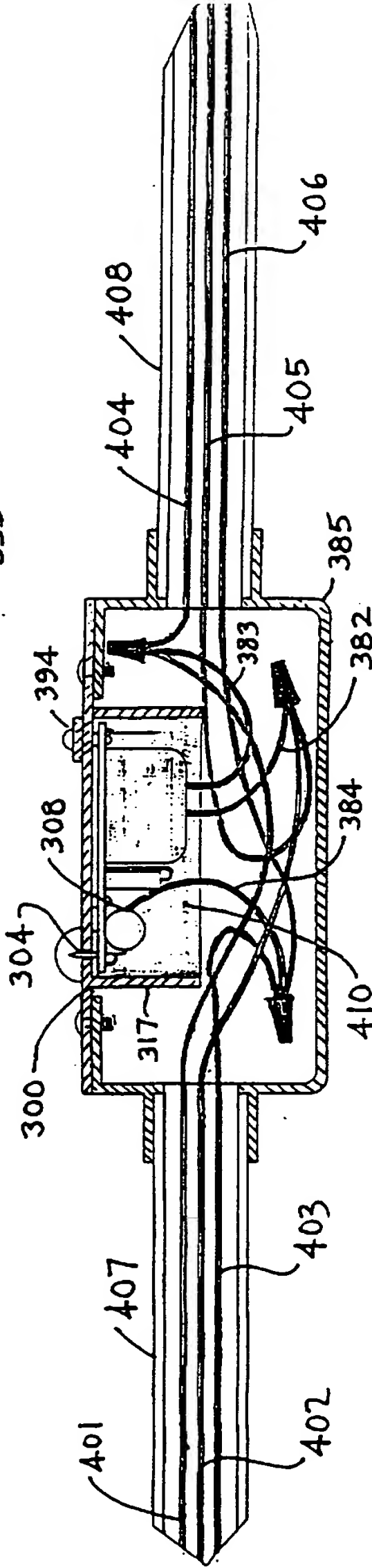
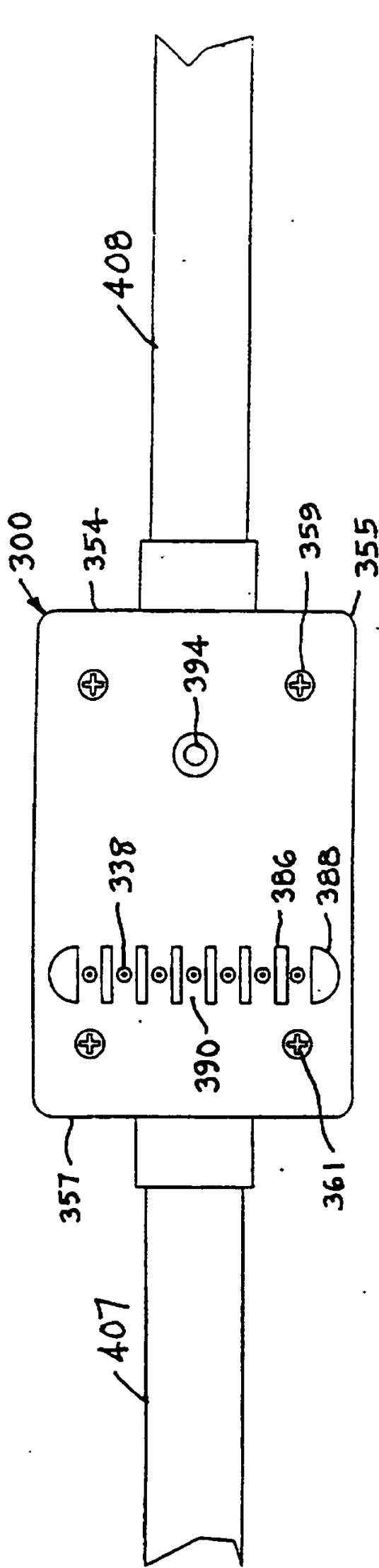



FIG. 12

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB 95/00311

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> Int. Cl. <sup>6</sup> B03C 3/00, 3/017, 3/12, 3/32, 3/36, 3/38  According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>  Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC: B03C 3/00, 3/017, 3/12, 3/32, 3/36, 3/38  Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched AU: IPC as above  Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base, and where practicable, search terms used) DERWENT: ION:				
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.		
A	US 4376642 A (Verity) 15 March 1983			
A	EP 558090 A2 (Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd) 1 September 1993			
A	US 4643745 A (Sakakibara et al.) 17 February 1987			
A	US 4227894 A (Prognoff) 14 October 1980			
A	GB 2117676 A (Kabushikikaisha Kanto Herusu) 19 October 1983			
A	US 4811159 A (Foster, Jr.) 7 March 1989			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.         </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.         </div> </div>				
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">           * Special categories of cited documents :            "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance            "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date            "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)            "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means            "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">           "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention            "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone            "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art            "&amp;" document member of the same patent family         </td> </tr> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
* Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family			
Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 August 1995	Date of mailing of the international search report 25 AUGUST 1995			
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU  AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION PO BOX 200 WODEN ACT 2606 AUSTRALIA  Facsimile No. 06 2853929	Authorized officer  P. MALANOS  Telephone No. (06) 2832135			

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

**PCT/IB 95/00311**

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
A	US 4380720 A (Fleck) 19 April 1983	
A	AU 61090/90 A (OY AIRTUNNEL LTD) 28 February 1991	

Information on patent family mem'

**PCT//B 95/00311**

for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

**END OF ANNEX**